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Title: Wind power plant

Technical Field :

The invention relates to a wind power plant where the driving shaft communicates with a synchronous generator optionally through a gear, and where a transformer
5 with n output windings communicates with an HVDC-transmission cable through an AC/DC-rectifier, measures being taken so as to secure against possible variations in the speed of rotation.

The use of a DC transmission cable implies that it is not necessary to take into account the capacitive load generated by the cable. In addition, it is possible to make
10 the HVDC transmission cables longer than the AC transmission cables. These AC transmission cables must not exceed a so-called "critical length".

Background Art

WO97/45908 discloses a wind power park where each wind turbine is equipped with a synchronous generator. The output power of the synchronous generator is rectified
15 by means of an AC/DC rectifier and transmitted through a DC transmission cable to a DC/AC inverter and a transformer so as to be transferred to the regional supply network. The AC/DC rectifier comprises controlled rectifiers, which are able to compensate for possible variations in the speed of rotation through a suitable control by means of particular control circuits. However, such control circuits are rather
20 complicated.

WO 92/14298 and WO 99/007996 disclose a variable speed wind turbine comprising active power converters for providing AC power. These power converters include active controlled rectifiers and require expensive controller circuits.

Brief Description of the Invention.

The object of the invention is to provide a wind turbine plant where each wind turbine is able to tolerate sudden gusts and is of a more simple construction than hitherto known.

- 5 A wind turbine plant of the above type is according to the invention characterised by
a magnetic field controller connected to the generator, said magnetic field controller
being adapted to vary the magnetic field in the synchronous generator in response to
a speed of rotation-depending output parameter of said synchronous generator in such
a manner that possible variations in the speed of rotation are compensated for, where-
10 by the AC/DC rectifier is composed of diodes. As a result, passive rectifier elements
suffice in the rectifier. In addition, the controllable rectifiers and the associated
control circuits are avoided which should otherwise be used for compensating for
possible variations in the speed of rotation.

Moreover according to the invention the magnetic field controller may be adapted to

- 15 detect the current generated by the synchronous generator, a negative feedback being established by means of the magnetic field controller for regulating the current through the rotor winding.

In addition, the magnetic field controller may according to the invention be adapted

- to detect the voltage generated by the synchronous generator, a negative feedback being established by means of said magnetic field controller.

Moreover, the magnetic field controller may according to the invention be adapted to detect the power generated by the synchronous generator, a negative feedback being established by means of said magnetic field controller.

Furthermore, the negative feedback may according to the invention include a P, I or D regulation, optionally a combination of said regulations.

Moreover, the rotor of the synchronous generator may according to the invention be dimensioned with a relatively low inductance. As a result, the time constant of the
5 magnetic field controller can be reduced.

Moreover, the rotor may according to the invention be adapted to rotate at a relatively high speed of rotation. As a result it is possible to further reduce the inductance of said rotor.

When the generator furthermore is multipolar, it is possible to further reduce the
10 inductance of the rotor.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The invention is explained in greater detail below with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which

15 Fig. 1 shows a wind power plant according to the invention comprising a synchronous generator and an AC/DC rectifier,

Fig. 2 illustrates a magnetic field controller for the synchronous generator of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 shows a transformer connected to the synchronous generator,

20 Fig. 4 illustrates the entire plant, where the AC/DC rectifier has been shown in greater detail, and

Fig. 5 shows the voltage versus the speed of rotation at various magnetizing currents

to the synchronous generator.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

The wind power plant shown in Fig. 1 comprises a number of arms 1 secured to a hub communicating with a synchronous generator 3, optionally through a gear 2. The 5 synchronous generator 3 is preferably a conventional three-phase synchronous generator with an energy supply to the rotor winding not involving a collector ring. The three-phase output of the synchronous generator 3 communicates with an AC/DC rectifier 7 through a possibly three-phase transformer 5. The AC/DC rectifier 7 delivers a DC voltage to a DC transmission cable 9. The most simple embodiment 10 of the high-voltage rectifier 7 is formed by ordinary diodes coupled in series, and accordingly it is a passive rectifier. The series coupling of the diodes is established by means of several output windings on the output of the transformer 5. In this manner the voltage is reduced to all the diodes, and the harmonic flows in the generator/transformer are reduced. The three-phase transformer 5 can be designed as 15 indicated in Fig. 3, where the primary side is connected to the generator output and comprises a star connection, and the secondary side is connected to the AC/DC rectifier 7 and can be composed of a Δ -connection and two combined Δ -star connections. The voltages generated by the secondary side of the transformer 5 are transferred to an AC/DC rectifier in form of a so-called B6 diode bridge, cf. Fig. 4. This 20 B6 diode bridge comprises a total of eighteen rectifier elements, viz. six on each secondary winding, where each of the three phase conductors of each secondary winding is connected to the connection point of two rectifier elements coupled in the same direction, said three pairs of rectifier elements being coupled in parallel. The parallel coupling of the rectifier elements associated with each of the three secondary 25 windings is subsequently coupled in series with the result that an HVDC-voltage is transmitted from the combined coupling of rectifier elements to an HVDC transmission cable 9. This transmission cable 9 can be several km long, such as 10 km. The use of such a DC transmission cable 9 instead of an AC cable is advantageous in the

length being arbitrary and almost unlimited. Thus it is not a question of a critical length as in connection with an AC cable. The end of the DC transmission cable 9 can be connected to a conventional DC/AC inverter converting into a mains frequency and be connected to the regional supply network optionally through a three--
5 phase transformer. Measures have, of course, been taken to ensure that the alternating voltage generated by the DC/AC inverter 7 is in phase with the regional supply network.

A demand exists, of course, for a possibility of running the wind power plant at a speed of rotation depending on the wind speed. However, an increase of the speed
10 of rotation implies that a high voltage is generated because the voltage is proportional to the speed of rotation, cf. the curves of Fig. 5. However, the output voltage is also proportional to the magnetic field in the generator 3, which can be utilized for stabilizing the voltage in case the speed of rotation is changed. The latter has according to the invention been obtained by means of a magnetic field controller 4 detecting an
15 output parameter of the generator 3, such as the current and the voltage or the product thereof. This magnetic field controller 4 regulates the current supply to the rotor windings in the generator in response to the output parameter. As a result, a negative feedback is established with the result that when the output power is increased the current supply to the rotor winding 3a is reduced, whereby the system automatically
20 seeks equilibrium. When the speed of rotation for instance is increased to 130% relative to an ordinary speed of rotation, the magnetizing current to the rotor winding 3a is reduced to 80%, cf. Fig. 5. When, on the contrary, the speed of rotation decreases to 80% relative to the ordinary speed of rotation, the magnetizing current to the rotor winding 3a is increased to 130%.

25 Fig. 2 shows an embodiment in greater detail of the magnetic field controller 4, and it appears that in two of the three phases of the generator the currents I_{G1} , I_{G2} and the voltages U_{G1} , U_{G2} , respectively, are detected. These parameter values are multiplied in pairs to obtain an expression of the output power P_{gen} . This output

- power P_{gen} is compared with a reference value P_{ref} , and the difference therebetween, viz. the error signal, is transferred to a regulation unit 11. In response to this error signal, the regulation unit generates a value for the magnetizing current I_m which is to be transferred to the rotor winding, optionally through a PWM 12 (Pulse Width Modulator) and an amplifying power transistor 13 controlling the supply of current to the rotor winding. The negative feedback is established by the detected power P_{gen} being deducted from the reference power P_{ref} . As a result a detected increased power P_{gen} implies that the error signal is reduced and that the power supplied to the rotor windings is reduced as well.
- 10 The power for the magnetizing of the generator 3 is typically of the magnitude 1% of the nominal power of the generator.
- A portion of the magnetizing can optionally be provided by means of permanent magnets, where an electric magnetizing is then used for controlling the speed of rotation. The speed of rotation is downwardly limited by a maximum magnetizing current due to the limited thermal properties of the rotor windings and the magnetic structure of the generator, viz. the magnetic saturation. In order to extend the lower limit of the speed of rotation it is therefore advantageous when either the generator is provided with an additional output presenting an increased nominal output voltage or the transformer is provided with an input presenting a reduced nominal voltage.
- 15 20 These additional inputs are only to be dimensioned for low power as the wind energy is low at a low speed of rotation.

According to a particularly advantageous embodiment, the wind turbine comprises a transformer with n output windings coupled in series with rectifiers so as to obtain an HVDC. The output windings can be coupled as a star or a Δ or as a combination thereof in order to obtain a sinusoidal input current.